



## Friends Witness for a Pro-life Peace Testimony

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Dear Friends,

When I was a student at Earlham College in the 1970s, majoring in Peace and Conflict Studies, a group of us offered an educational meeting explaining what was wrong with nuclear energy. We did such a fine job that a student in the audience asked a very sensible question: how on earth could anyone support this? So I launched into a three-minute pro-nuclear diatribe. I did it so effectively that my fellow activists started worrying that I needed to stop and explain what was wrong with what I was saying.

Another time, we did a program about what was wrong with nuclear weapons. Since the point of nuclear weapons is to kill a huge number of people, one of my friends thought that was quite sufficient to make the case against it. Then someone asked: wouldn't it be dangerous for us to not have such weapons for deterrence as long as the Soviets had them? This wasn't an out-of-left-field question; it was basic and common. And my friend had no answer.

All this has been brought to mind when I have discussions with Friends from around the U.S. on the topic of abortion. How well could Friends explain different views, in addition to their own?

I discerned that the queries for reflection that FCNL sent in 2023 were missing some crucial points. Our committee offers the enclosed set of alternative queries for consideration by those who feel they would benefit from further reflection, either in a group or as individuals. We hope you find these helpful. And if you wish to share responses with us, we'd be grateful.

Yours in Friendship,

Rachel MacNair, Clerk

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